

editor of the *Globe* by the nose, and to inflict sundry kicks upon the baser part of his base body; to make him eat dirt, and his own words, fouler than any filth; but because I wished to show to the world what a miserable poltroon, what a craven dullard, what a literary scarecrow, what a mere thing, stuffed with straw and rubbish, is the *soi-disant* director of public opinion and official organ of Whig politics.<sup>1</sup>

' 'Tis a great thing to have such, an organ for response as *The Times*, ' wrote Disraeli to his sister. Under the guidance of John Walter, second of the name, *Tjie Times* had already taken a place far ahead of all its rivals ; and, though it had supported the Reform movement and been friendly to the Grey Ministry, it was now in open opposition to Melbourne and bitterly hostile to the alliance between the Whigs and O'Connell. In the previous summer, it will be remembered, Disraeli had used the *Morning Post* as his journalistic medium, but he now transferred his flag to *The Times* and formed a close alliance with Barnes, the Editor. The alliance soon bore fruit. In *The Times* of January 19 there appeared a scathing philippic against the Government and its members in the form of a letter addressed to Lord Melbourne, and written in the style of Junius over the signature of ' Runnymede.' This letter was the first of a series of nineteen<sup>2</sup> in all which appeared in the course of the four months that followed. Three are addressed to Melbourne, two to Peel and Stanley, and most of the others to the leading members of the Government.

*To /Sarah Disraeli.*

[Jan, 1836.]

The *Letters of Runnymede* are the only things talked of in London, especially the latter ones. The author is xinknown, and will probably so remain. One or two papers have foolishly

<sup>1</sup> *The Times*, Jan. 9, 1836.

<sup>2</sup> A few more letters appeared over the same signature in the following year.